

# THE PIPELINE

Spring 2026



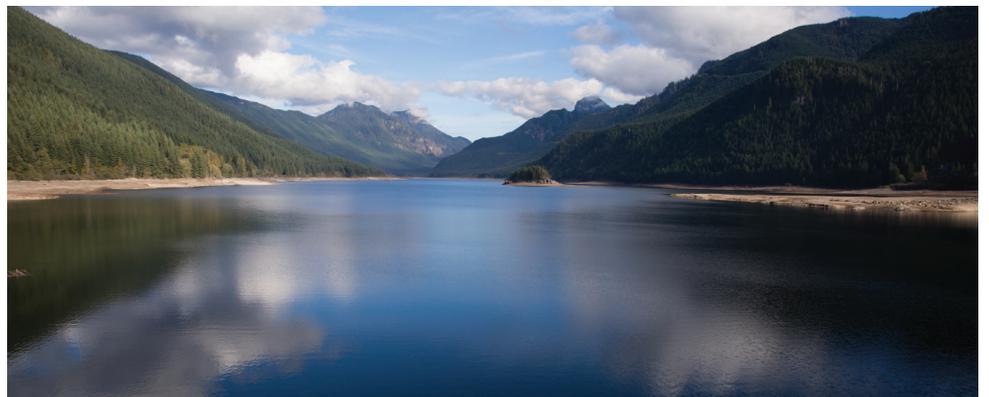
Commissioner Pamela Maloney

## COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

### Reliable, High-Quality Water Supply Secured for Future Generations

#### Greetings

I'm pleased to share news that the District recently signed a revised contract with the City of Seattle to ensure customers in the District's service area will continue to enjoy high quality drinking water through at least 2062.



Tolt Watershed.

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#### Background

The District's drinking water supply sources are two protected watersheds in the Cascade Mountains, the Tolt and Cedar River Watersheds. These pristine lakes and surrounding drainage basins are primarily owned and fully managed by Seattle Public Utilities, and provide water to much of our region, including Seattle, several municipalities and other water districts. The new contract defines what Seattle will provide (how much water, where, and at what pressure and quality) and how the costs to operate, maintain, and plan for this regional water system are shared between Seattle and by water purveyors, including the District.

Prior to this new contract, our supply was governed by a 60-year agreement the District signed in 2004. That agreement specified that contract terms could be revisited at the 20-year mark—which resulted in this revised

*Continued on next page...*

## WOODINVILLE WATER DISTRICT

Providing safe and reliable service with responsible rates since 1959.

contract. The District's General Manager, Board of Commissioners, financial consultants and legal counsel participated with other similarly affected water purveyors in a multi-year effort to negotiate revised contract terms with Seattle.

## Significant Protections

Our revised contract guarantees that Seattle will continue to plan for providing the District's water supply needs through 2062, and beyond. In fact, the revised contract provides for automatic 10-year extensions, beginning 2032, unless we opt out. Since development of new water supplies is extremely expensive and time consuming (generally taking many years and tens of millions of dollars to plan, develop and implement), the value of a guaranteed supply of high-quality drinking water to meet the needs of our growing community can't be overstated.

Other benefits of the revised contract include technical and legal provisions which:

- improve rate-making principles that reflect industry standards for establishing rates and charges for the water the District purchases. Improved cost methodologies will result in 2-3% lower costs for purchased water, compared to the past contract;
- limit Seattle's right to amend the contract without agreement from the District;
- remove subjective and discretionary approval authority by Seattle for use of alternate supplies, should the District decide to pursue them;
- specify that increased use of recycled water (aka water re-use) will not incur penalties for reduction of water purchased from Seattle;
- enhance the Seattle Water Operating Board's role for review and/or approval of Seattle practices and capital expenditures, and expand audit rights. (The Operating Board is a committee comprised of District representatives, Seattle, and other wholesale water purveyors supplied by Seattle); and
- assign costs to Seattle for supply inlet meters that fail prematurely, and clearer assignment of maintenance and repair of these meters.

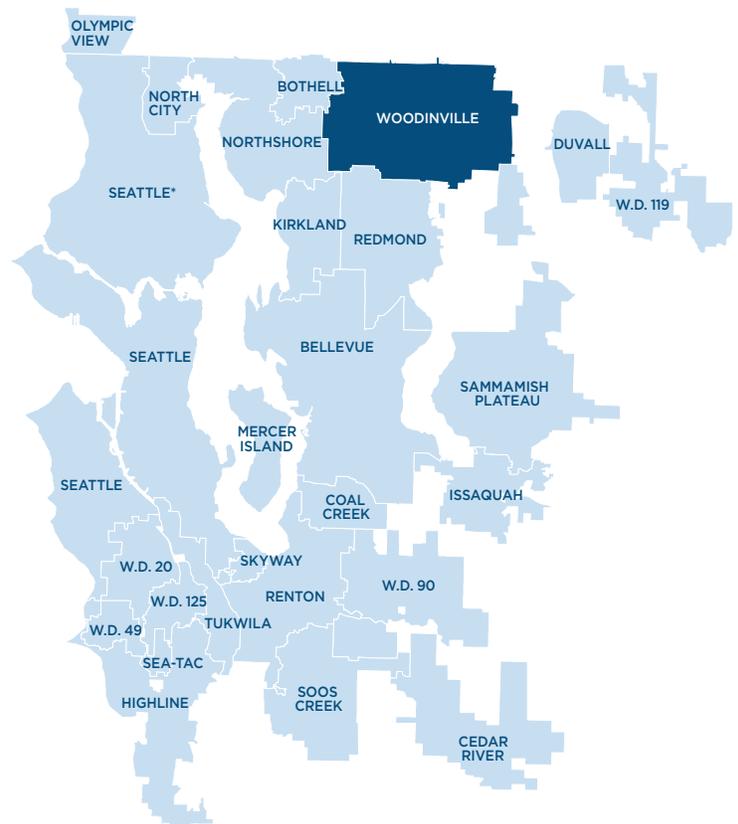
## One Downside: Higher Cost to Development of New Water Supplies

The revised contract includes "Stranded Cost Provisions", which means that if the District chooses to leave the regional system, or purchase less water from Seattle in the future because the District develops another water source/supply, there will be a penalty for leaving. This is common in our

industry; it prevents water purchasers from leaving a water system without paying their share of the built regional water system and thus saddling remaining customers with those costs. The prior contract did not include "stranded costs" because at the time, Seattle was concerned about meeting the needs of a rapidly growing water demand due to explosive population growth within its service area. In 1996, Seattle told water purveyors (including the District) that contracts would not be renewed, and that Seattle's future supply may be severely constrained. Seattle encouraged investment in, and development of, alternative water sources, and did not include any stranded cost penalty as an incentive to do so.

Since that time, because of an emphasis on the wise use of water (conservation) as well as much more efficient plumbing fixtures, our region now uses less water overall than we did in the 1980s, in spite of the significantly increased regional population. Seattle now needs to retain its wholesale customers to help pay for the regional system.

## SPU WATER SERVICE AREA



## Board's Broader Perspective

Recognizing our Mission to provide a safe and reliable water source for our customers now and in the future, the District pursued several avenues to obtain other water sources in response to Seattle's 1996 notification that they might not be able to continue to supply the water we would need. These pursuits resulted in the District making significant financial investments into water supply options in the 1990's.

One of these earlier investments resulted in a partnership with the City of Everett and the Northshore Utility District; called the Snohomish River Regional Water Authority (SRRWA). The SRRWA purchased a water right associated with the Snohomish River and subsequently completed engineering and environmental studies, and later a transmission project. Completed studies make clear that it would be very expensive to develop this asset into a viable water supply for our customers, and that it is more cost effective for our customers to continue to receive water from Seattle now since Seattle can commit to providing it's high-quality supply reliably through 2062 and beyond. However, the District continues to take actions necessary to retain the viability of the SRRWA water right to ensure our District remains resilient. The District's Board of Commissioners and District Staff are committed to continuing to proactively evaluate

optimal water supply sources for our customers and timing such studies to complement future contract re-openers with Seattle.

In the meantime, the revised contract means Seattle will continue to provide as much high-quality water as our District will need. The District will participate with the Operating Board, and through other avenues, ensure our ongoing investment in this water supply is protected, that costs charged to us are fair and reasonable, and are consistent with the revised contract terms.

## In Summary

This revised contract is the best way the District can meet our mission to you, our customers: To provide safe and reliable service at the lowest responsible rates. You can find the full revised contract document "First Amended and Restated Contract Between The City of Seattle and Woodinville Water District for the Supply of Water" on the District website at woodinvillewater.com.

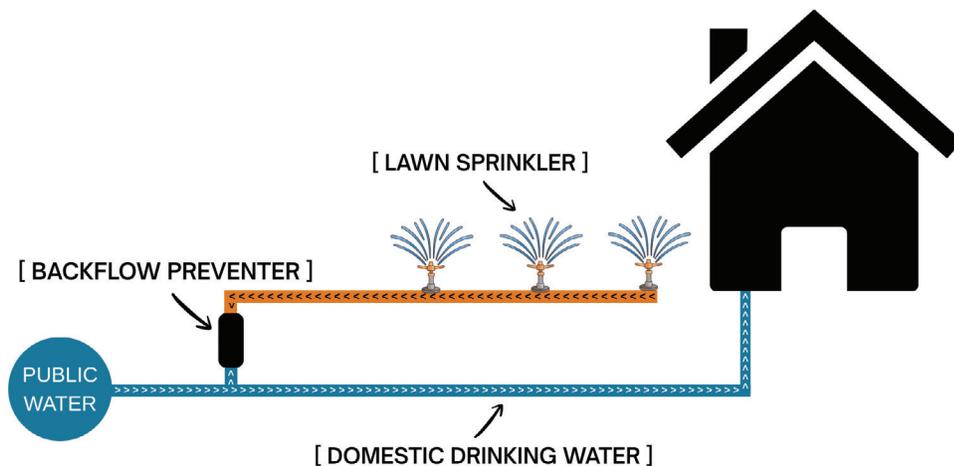
*The Board of Commissioners meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 5:00pm. The public is welcome to join the meeting in-person at the District Meeting Room or attend by phone via Microsoft Teams. Meeting call-in information is posted on the agenda that can be found on our webpage the Friday prior to each meeting at woodinvillewater.com.*

## Is Your Contact Info Up-To-Date?

Ensure you receive important phone and email notifications by keeping your information current. We make it easy! Simply visit woodinvillewater.com, click "Customers" and select "Update Contact Information".

The screenshot displays the Woodinville Water District website interface. At the top left is the logo "WOODINVILLE WATER DISTRICT". The main navigation bar includes "YOUR DISTRICT", "YOUR WATER", "CUSTOMERS" (circled in red), "BUILDERS / DEVELOPERS", and "HOW DO I...". A search bar on the right says "SEARCH OUR SITE" with a magnifying glass icon. Below the navigation, a large menu is presented with a background image of a lake and mountains. The menu is organized into columns: "Open the Customers page", "AM I IN THE DISTRICT?", "BACKFLOW / CROSS CONNECTION", "RATES & CHARGES", "BILLING AND COLLECTION PROCESS", "CUSTOMER SURVEY", "FORMS & DOCUMENTS", "HYDRANT METER RENTALS", "REPORT A CONCERN", "SERVICES" (listing Leak Repairs, Start / Stop Service, Street Light Outages, Toilet Rebates, Pay My Bill, and Your Bill Explained), and "UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION" (circled in red) with "WATER EDUCATION" below it. At the bottom, a row of six circular icons with labels: "AGENDAS & MINUTES", "PAY BILL", "CUSTOMER PORTAL", "FORMS & DOCUMENTS", "UPDATE YOUR INFO", and "REPORT A CONCERN".

THANKS IN PART TO RESIDENTS' CONSERVATION EFFORTS, OUR REGION USES THE SAME AMOUNT OF WATER NOW AS IT DID IN THE 1950S DESPITE HAVING MORE THAN DOUBLED IN POPULATION.



## Did You Know A Simple Lawn Sprinkler Can Contaminate Your Drinking Water?

Your drinking water can get contaminated through hazards such as irrigation systems, pools and boilers that are connected to the water system during a backflow event. Backflow is the unwanted flow of non-potable substances back into a customer's plumbing system and/or public water system.

Woodinville Water District's **Backflow/Cross Connection Control Program** is designed to keep pollutants and contaminants from entering your clean drinking water by requiring backflow protection on potentially hazardous systems.

### Common residential hazards that require backflow protection include:

Fire systems, lawn irrigation, boilers, wells, spas, swimming pools, hot tubs, hose bibs, heat pumps, etc....

### Common commercial hazards that require backflow protection include:

Boilers, x-ray equipment, carbonation equipment, film processors, fire systems, dental equipment, dishwashers, ice makers, etc....

### Required Annual Testing

Backflow preventer testing is required annually and must be performed by a certified Backflow Assembly Tester (BAT). You have the option to find your own certified tester or let Woodinville Water District test for you! For more information on each option, see below:



#### Certified Tester List

Visit [woodinvillewater.com](http://woodinvillewater.com) and navigate to **YOUR WATER** and click on **Backflow Tester List**



#### Have Woodinville Water District test for you!

Visit [woodinvillewater.com](http://woodinvillewater.com) and navigate to **YOUR WATER** and click on **Backflow Testing Application**

## Why Conserve? It Works!

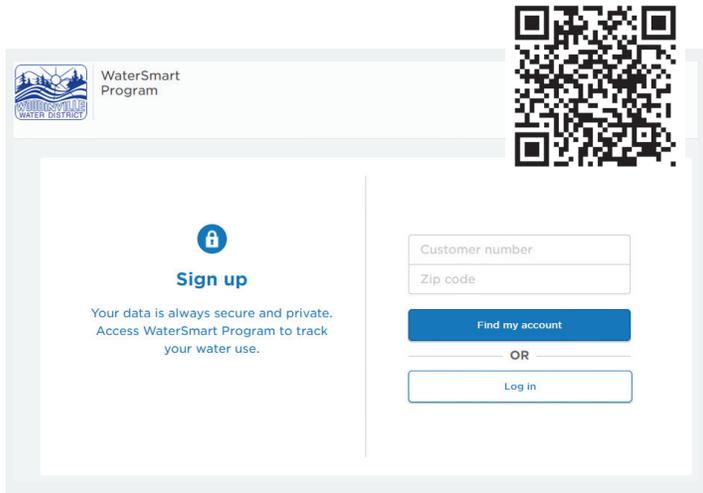
Simple everyday actions we can do to save water really add up:

- **If you have a dishwasher, use it!** Washing by hand typically uses more water.
- **Shorten your shower.** Save 2 gallons for every minute you shave off your shower.
- **Run full loads.** Wait to run your washing machine or dishwasher until it's full.
- **Use a broom.** Sweep to clean patios and sidewalks instead of using a hose or power washer.
- **Look at every water bill.** Knowing how much you use will help you spot leaks quickly. Sign up for WaterSmart to view your hourly water usage, compare year over year usage and other great tools to be automatically notified of potential leaks!



## WaterSmart is now Vertexone

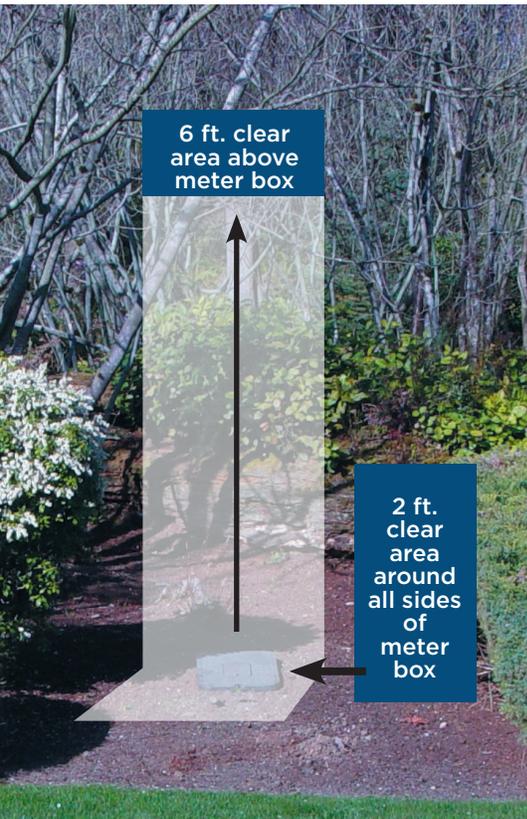
**Don't worry! It's still the same great tool, just with new name!** You'll still be able to view and pay your bill, track your water usage and set up personal notifications for high water use, leak alerts, and urgent notifications. If you haven't already signed up, it's free to customers! Just visit <https://wwd.watersmart.com> or scan the QR code to get started!



## Fix A Leak Week!

**Did you know “Fix a Leak Week” occurs every year in March?** While there are great tips shared during this week, any time of year is great for finding and fixing those leaks.

According to the EPA, household leaks can waste nearly 1 trillion gallons of water nationwide annually. You can find out more on detecting and fixing leaks by visiting [savingwater.org/indoors/fixing-leaks/](http://savingwater.org/indoors/fixing-leaks/)



## Utility Access - Please Keep Clear Access to Your Meter

Most water meter boxes are located in a utility easement along the front of the property. Property owners are responsible for maintaining a clear pathway to and around the water meter. District policy provides guidelines for customers to follow that will allow our staff to quickly find and perform any necessary repairs on your meter.

As you begin your spring garden cleanup, take time to check the area around the water meter box. Please keep a two-foot area around all sides of the meter box and the space six-feet above the meter box clear. The path from the road to the meter box should also be cleared to a minimum of two-feet wide and six-feet high.

Please do not park cars or place any debris on top of the meter box. If your meter does not meet the minimum clearance requirements, you will be notified in writing. Failure to meet the minimum requirements after written communication has been sent may result in fines to your account. If you have any questions, please call our Customer Service Department at 425-487-4100.

# GARDENING CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

**King  
Conservation  
District**



<https://kingcd.org/get-involved/education-and-workshops/>



**Master Gardener  
Program in King  
County**



<https://kingcounty.mastergardenerfoundation.org/education/>



**Northwest  
Horticulture  
Society**



<https://northwesthort.org/events/>



**University of  
Washington  
Botanic Gardens**

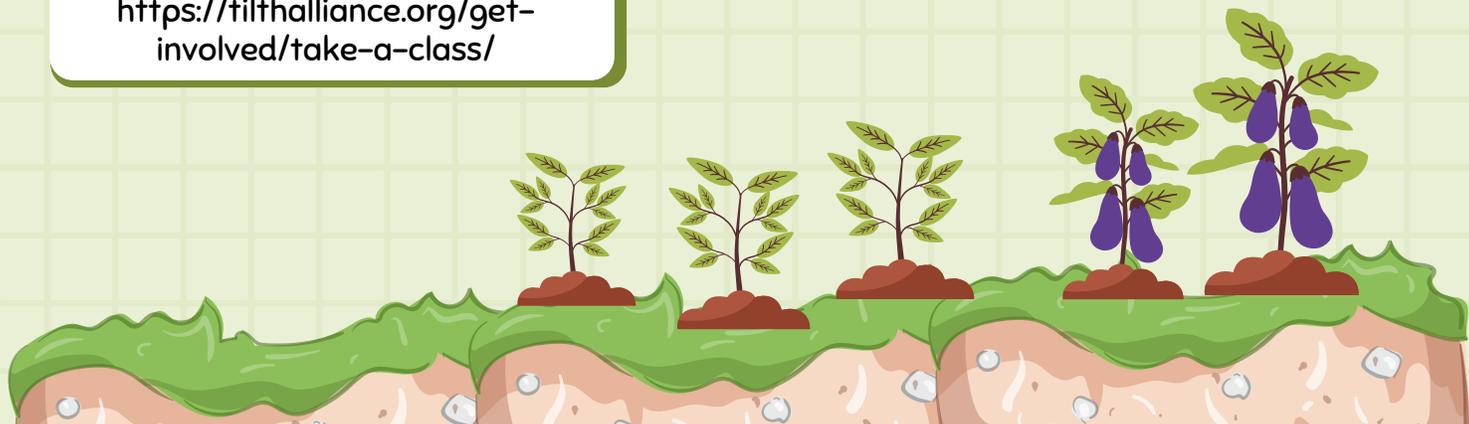


<https://botanicgardens.uw.edu/education/adults/classes-workshops/>

**Tilth Alliance**



<https://tilthalliance.org/get-involved/take-a-class/>



## Looking To Upgrade Your Garden Game?

Creating a Water-Wise garden or landscape involves selecting the right plants, preparing your site and watering efficiently. Find great tips and resources at [gardenwashington.com/garden-resources/water-smart-solutions](http://gardenwashington.com/garden-resources/water-smart-solutions)



## Let Us Know About Life Support Issues Requiring Non-Interrupted Water Service



**A reminder to all** - please be sure to let us know if anyone in your household has a serious health condition requiring water to be available at all times, such as kidney dialysis. We make a note of this on your customer account screen.

Please contact Customer Service at 425-487-4100 or email [customerservice@woodinvillewater.com](mailto:customerservice@woodinvillewater.com).

# WOODINVILLE WATER DISTRICT QUICK LINKS



### Woodinville Water District Website



### Vertexone/ WaterSmart Customer Portal

Look up your account to explore your water use. It's free, and it only takes a minute



### Pay Your Woodinville Water District Bill Online

- Receive statements and pay your bill
- State-of-the-art-security
- Pay your bill with a credit card, debit card, or bank account

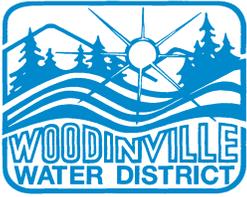


### Consumer Confidence Report Annual Drinking Water Quality Report



### Woodinville Water District Pipeline Newsletter





Woodinville Water District  
PO Box 1390  
Woodinville, WA 98072-1390

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## Postal Patron ECRWSS

*The Pipeline* is designed to keep Woodinville Water District customers up-to-date on water related issues, projects, and conservation education. The District welcomes your feedback and your suggestions for future stories.

### Woodinville Water District

17238 NE Woodinville-Duvall Road  
PO Box 1390  
Woodinville, WA 98072-1390  
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Fax: 425-485-6381  
www.woodinvillewater.com

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Closed Sat, Sun & Holidays

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Do your part,  
be water smart

## WWD Board of Commissioners



*Commissioners (L-R): Aleksandra Kachakov, Pamela Maloney, Chuck Clarke, Julie Belt and Preeti Shridhar.*



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